

# Pacific Islands

Adventures like no place on earth



## Niue

### Snorkelling with Humpback Whales

The tiny nation of Niue stands alone and dramatically different in the Pacific Ocean. But every year giant humpback whales overcome the island's extreme isolation to breed and calve in the warm waters surrounding 'The Rock'.

Zippering along in an inflatable Zodiac provides the best evidence of how unique Niue is. Sandy beaches are usurped by a rocky coastline of sea caves, natural arches and hidden swimming pools seemingly made just for exploring.

Our own Zodiac-based exploration is focused on gently interacting with Niue's whale visitors. Boat skipper Ian Grey looks for telltale signs of where a whale has just dived, and at the right moment one of us is dispatched to swim alongside the boat and spot the whales. Success comes after few false starts, and on my whale watch I spy a mother and her calf bathing in surprisingly shallow waters only 30 metres off the coast – no wonder the sounds of whales passing have been known to wake guests in a nearby clifftop motel.

The rest of the boat joins me in the water. Ian's advice is to swim closely and slowly together to resemble one large creature, and we're soon floating respectfully above the giant whale and her calf. Niue's crystal clear water provides perfect viewing of the 2m-long calf tucked up against its much larger mother, and for at least a minute they remain in full view. Finally, with a calm and languid flick of their powerful flukes, they swim away, leaving us all thoroughly in awe.



### Contact Details

Niue Dive  
Phone +683 4311  
[www.dive.nu](http://www.dive.nu)  
adult/child NZ\$95/75  
Humpback whale interactions are possible from July to October.

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### Accommodation

Matavai Resort  
Avatele  
Phone +683 4361  
matavai@niue.nu  
double NZ\$203-256

Namukulu Cottages & Spa  
Namukulu  
Phone +683 4533  
www.namukulu-cottages.nu  
single/double NZ\$130/160

Kololi's Motel  
Alofi  
Phone +683 4258  
www.niueaccommodation.nu  
double from NZ\$55

Niue Backpackers  
Alofi  
Phone + 683 4074

### Other Attractions

Avaiki Cave and Limu Pools are recommended for sheltered swimming, and the spectacular Talava Arches, Matapa Chasm and Togo Chasm are all reached after short walks through the rainforest. There are also numerous caves and bushwalks to explore.

Diving is also excellent around Niue, with superb visibility (75metres) and underwater cave systems and Niue Dive operate a professional dive facility and training operation.

Fishing is also some of the best in the world.

### Transport

Air New Zealand  
www.airnewzealand.com  
Flies once a week between Auckland (departs Saturday morning) and Niue (departs Friday afternoon). Return fares start from around NZ\$800.

Alofi Rentals  
Phone +683 4017  
www.alofirentals.nu  
There is no public transport on Niue, so most visitors hire a motorcycle (per week NZ\$180) or a car (per week from NZ\$375) from Alofi.

Niue Rentals  
Phone +683 4216  
niuerentals@niue.nu

### Tours

Discover the interesting shells and marine life on a reef or bush walk with Herman Tagaloailuga. Book through the tourist information office on Niue.

A5 4x4 plantation Tour  
Phone +683 3343

Glass Bottom Boat  
Phone +683 4017  
Talis Cave Tour  
Booking through the visitor centre

Uga Hunting or Vaka Tour  
Bookings through the visitor centre

The Commodores Orientation Tour of Niue  
Booking through the visitor centre

Fishaway Charters – Fishing Charter  
Alofi  
+683 4392  
Sarah@niue.nu

Snoopy Fishing Charters  
Alofi  
+683 4392  
alofirentals@niue.nu

### Drinking and Dining

Matavai Resort  
Avatele  
Phone +683 4360  
mains NZ\$25-30

Crazy Uga Cafe  
Alofi  
Phone +683 1277  
burgers and homemade pies NZ\$10-15

Falala Fa Café & Bar  
Alofi  
Ph: +683 4697  
Steak, European food

Washaway Cafe  
Avatele  
Phone +683 4822

### Shopping

Purchase paintings by local artist Mark Cross (www.markcross.nu) at Taihiono Arts in Alofi.

Local handicrafts, including weaved hats and baskets, can be purchased at villages around the island or at the market on Tuesdays and Fridays.